

THE CARRIER

MDARC

Volume XLVIII Number 9 www.mdarc.org September 2000

MILLENNIUM PACIFICON AROUND THE CORNER

Terry, KE6WRE Pacificon 2000 Chair

Pacificon 2000, your club's big event of the year, is almost here. I know that everyone is aware of the event so I will try to put a different slant on things. Did you know it takes 38 committees and 6 steering committee people to plan Pacificon? It takes over 100 people for the weekend to properly staff this most popular west coast event. Club members have been asking me to let them know when to volunteer. We need you to let us know NOW that you are available for at least some of the three day weekend. I know you want to see the exhibitors and attend the outstanding forums we have planned. But we also need you to help out, even if for just a few hours one or two days. Please email me with your name, call, phone number and when you can help your club. This really is a big event and we need your help. My email is: myword@sprynet.com. I need to hear from you, now is the time!

We have lined up excellent exhibitors once again. We learn a little more each year and try hard to accommodate everyone in relation to set up and interesting displays. About half of the money to pay for this convention comes from the exhibitor rental fees. I would ask that if you plan on making a purchase of some ham gear, batteries, headphones, etc. that you wait until Pacificon the weekend of October 20, 21, 22 to make the purchase. And if you are planning to give yourself or someone else a gift of ham equipment, why not buy it at Pacificon and hide it. This does make a big difference in total purchases. The exhibitors only show up to events that make them money. Understandable! So help

**September Meeting
Friday September 15
7:30 PM**

Program

Barry K6ST
Islands on the Air

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette CA

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us show them that this event is worth their time and their investment.

Since most of us have access to the web I suggest you go to the Pacificon website and look up the latest schedule of speakers. The banquet speaker is going to be Riley Hollingsworth of the FCC. He has been a good friend of the amateur community. He's also a good speaker. Send in your reservation for the banquet early. It's always a sell-out and this year is going to be sold out very early.

The gloom and doom people have been proven wrong again. (They always are.) Rather than the downfall of amateur radio, the restructuring has been a big boom, which was the purpose, I believe. So if you are ready to upgrade your license, or know someone you would like to get into the hobby, we are offering official VE testing during Pacificon 2000. Make sure you know the requirements regarding proper ID, etc.

The popular all Friday Antenna Seminar requires a separate \$10 ticket. You should order this ahead of time, too. The room only holds about 200 people. We reproduce the proceedings so you can take home what you just thought you heard!! The web site, including an order form, is www.pacificon.org.

And now my special request. The average age of an amateur operator is getting up there. That means that not enough young people are entering your hobby. I ask that you care enough, and take some time to attempt to interest someone under the age of 60 to play radio with you. A son, a grandson or daughter would be best. It's a wonderful way to show you are interested in them by sharing a passion of yours. After all, it's so easy to get excited about sharing radio if it is with someone you love. And they will feel closer to you because you opened your secret world to them. So bring some young people to the weekend. Be a sport - pay their \$5 admission. (Remember, Scouts in uniform are free!)

So bring your enthusiasm, your wallet, clean ears and a young person. Pacificon 2000 is going to be another winner!

Advance Registration Form
PACIFICON 2000, October 20-22, 2000
Please type or print name and address

Name _____ Call _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Antenna Seminar @ \$10.00 = \$
(Friday only)

Pacificon admission @ \$5.00 = \$
(\$10.00 at the door)

Banquet (Saturday eve) - How many?

Beef @ \$33.00 = \$

Chicken @ \$33.00 = \$

TOTAL= \$

PACIFICON admission does not include Friday
Antenna Seminar (see above), which must be prepaid.

Make check payable to: PACIFICON 2000

Mail To: PACIFICON 2000
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Concord, CA 94527

Info: (925) 932-6125
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WANTED BY THE SHERIFF KE6JGA

The Sheriffs Amateur Radio Communications Team is actively recruiting amateur operators, interested in service to their community. If you're interested in serving your community your help would be very much appreciated. Not only will you have the satisfaction of using your radio to benefit society you will also derive personal rewards in knowing that you made a difference. Here is a brief overview of the events and the Team's involvement so far this year.

June 2nd and 3rd: Contra Costa County Fair. This event like some others, consists of answering questions, finding lost children or lost parents, and being on the lookout for problems and reporting them to the Sheriff deputies. Sometimes an event can happen where you can make a difference in a medical situation. On June 3rd, a mother approached two ARC Team members with an apparently unconscious child in her arms. She said a gate had fallen on the child and wanted directions to the Fair Office. The ARC Team escorted her instead to the emergency facilities being manned by the Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team. After turning the mother and child over to SAR, the two team members returned to the fair. Shortly thereafter a message came over the radio for the Sheriff's men to secure and light a landing area for the Med-Evac helicopter. The child was transported by helicopter to Oakland Children's Hospital Emergency Room. The delay in securing treatment for the child was reduced by escorting the mother to the SAR Facility rather than directing her to the office as she had requested. You can make a difference.

July 4th Parade in Orinda. The Sheriff's ARC Team assisted the Orinda PD in sealing off the parade route and keeping it secure during the parade.

July 4th Fireworks in San Ramon. The greatest satisfaction at this event is being involved in the reuniting of lost children with their parents. It's impossible to describe the look of relief when you hand a lost child over to his or her parents. And, at the same time you leave you leave a lasting impression of the value of amateur radio. The other duty performed at this event was to be extra eyes and ears for the San Ramon PD in the event of potential trouble. Everything quiets down at fireworks time and you get to watch an excellent fireworks show.

July 13th Danville Hot Summer Nights. This was a very quiet and uneventful detail. Only one

lost child and she was united with her parents about 2 minutes later. The reward at this event was all the pizza you wanted to eat furnished by the Sheriff's Department and while wandering through the street you had a chance to look over a large number of restored vintage automobiles.

July 16th Parade in Oakley. The main duty here was to block off key streets when the parade started. You had an excellent vantage point for viewing the parade and the elaborate dresses of the participants. No problems arose at this event. Again we were treated to an eat as much as you can stand at lunch. You really have to have self-control if you don't want to gain weight at these events.

If you would like to be a part of this important service you can contact Mike Patterson at mapa@ieee.org by e-mail or at 925/944-8786 by phone. Your help is appreciated by the community.

Jack Butler

Use It or Lose It

By Greg Estep, KE6VTA

Last month, I talked about four positive aspects of MDARC. This month is a challenge. The FCC has been walking the talk and the talk is using what we have. Amateur Radio has a valuable resource that cannot be replaced – Radio Spectrum.

There are many forces that want what we have. PCs, wireless, data communications, satellite, etc all need Radio Spectrum and are willing to pay money for it. Amateur Radio has only service and goodwill to offer. So how can you use it and how do you walk the talk.

1. Use all your modes available. Yes, dig out that old packet system and give it a try. Try QRP. Use the resources you

have to help use the spectrum we are allotted.

2. Get on 220. Here is a band that is under utilized. MDARC has a repeater and many in the club use it.
3. Volunteer for Public Service – Yes that is one of the ways to protect our spectrum.
4. Walk the talk. Show the community how Amateur Radio helps. That can be getting involved with Scouts, schools, libraries, and civic functions. The more visible we are the more we walk the talk of how valuable Amateur Radio is. Recently, many of us attended a Walnut Creek City Council meeting. The city is trying to figure out how to deal with antennas. Being visible as a positive influence for Amateur Radio helps defend every Amateur needs to put something as simple as an antenna on the roof of the house.
5. Join the ARRL. You may disagree with some of the things it does, but it is in Washington DC defending Amateur Radio and deserves your support and money for that effort.

73, Greg

MDARC General Meeting Minutes 8/18/00

The meeting was opened by President Estep at 7:30 pm. Jim Brunk discussed recently completed work to install the new 220 repeater. Thanks to Jack Beck, KE6TIP for all the work in setting it up and completing the installation.

Jim pointed out that only the control operators have the capability to contact 911 directly. However, the various police departments can be dialed directly.

WA6JAU, Trevor is looking for some additional help in operating the Talk-In station at PACIFICON.

George Roush, announced the Christmas Party is still in the planning stage.

Sam Lipson, KO6JR, announced the club membership is not 350. 207 people are also supporting the repeater operations financially. Sam indicated that he will be accepting 2001 membership dues after PACIFICON in October.

RACES training is scheduled for September 16 at 8:30 am at an East County location. More later.

A one day license class will be held at 50 Glasser Dr. in Martinez at the County OES facility. Contact Jim Brunk at N6BHX@ARRL.net if you are interested.

SB 1714 is up for approval by the Governor in the next 10 days. Everyone is encouraged to send him a message requesting approval. It may be sent by FAX, E-mail or by letter. Just send it.

The next Board meeting will be on Labor Day, September 4 at Emil Villas.

The meeting was followed by a very interesting talk on Emergency Preparedness at Chevron.

Dick Brown, Acting Secretary

September's speaker

Barry K6ST and Tom W6IXP will speak on IOTA (Islands on the Air) Dxpedition to the 2 newest islands NA-214 KL7/W6IXP and NA-215 KL7/K6ST

HURRICANE NET ACTIVITIES, BUT DEBBY'S A DUD

From the ARRL Letter
Vol. 19, No. 32

As Debby twirled in the Atlantic, the Hurricane Watch Net activated this week for the first time in the current hurricane season. The Net began operation Monday on 14.325 MHz as Debby, then a tropical storm, approached the Leeward Islands. The Net activates on 14.325 MHz whenever severe weather threatens Caribbean or Atlantic islands or the US East or Gulf coasts.

Net Manager Jerry Herman, N3BDW, said Monday that although Debby was just a tropical storm, it was forecast to become a hurricane, and he wanted the Net to get a leg up in gathering information from participating stations in the affected areas. Participating Hurricane Watch Net members pass weather-related information via W4EHW to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

As it turned out, Debby did gain Category 1 hurricane status the following day, with winds topping out at around 70 MPH with higher gusts. The storm's pace attracted the attention of Southern Florida amateurs, who began gearing up for possible disaster duty. Southern Florida SM Phyllisan West, KA4FZI, said Wednesday that hams there were in a "wait-and-see attitude," although Debby had been downgraded to a tropical storm by then with only a slight chance of regaining hurricane status. West said that county emergency coordinators were working closely with local emergency operations centers to monitor preparations and be available as needed.

Debby was downgraded to a tropical storm as it cleared the northern coast of Hispaniola. Reports received from the islands that the storm has passed indicate little or no damage from the storm.

By week's end, Debby was continuing to

diminish in strength and the Hurricane Watch Net discontinued operations after about 40 hours of operation. "Debby was certainly unusual in that we were in operation for some time while it was a tropical storm, but the proximity to the islands and forecast intensity warranted that," said HWN Manager Herman.

Herman thanked Net members - and especially the newcomers - for their performance in the Net's first activation of the 2000 hurricane season.

W4EHW at the National Hurricane Center, which handles HWN reports during severe weather, also shut down Thursday. "Our sincere thanks to all of our dedicated W4EHW Operators, some who took time off work to keep W4EHW on the air," Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4JR, said. "Your time and dedication to public service and humanitarian ideals is what makes Amateur Radio much more than just a hobby. Without you, W4EHW would just be a bunch of wires, boxes with lights and a lot of silence."

The storm dumped a lot of rain over Puerto Rico and other islands in its path. One person on Puerto Rico died when he slipped from his roof while trying to secure his TV antenna from the approaching storm. ARRL Puerto Rico SM Victor Madera, KP4PQ, reports Debby went by without much wind damage. But Madera says the storm left behind some 11 inches of rain, and flooding was expected in Puerto Rico.

Rainfall totals of 4 to 6 inches and as high as 10 to 15 inches over mountainous areas were still associated with Debby by week's end. The National Weather Service said the rainfall could cause life-threatening flash floods and mudslides. Heavy rains affected portions of the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and eastern Cuba.

For more information and storm information updates, visit the Hurricane Watch Net site, <http://www.hwn.org/>.

MDARC Board of Directors and Committees

Position	Who	How to find them
President	Greg Estep, KE6VTA	925-250-4743 (h) grestep@home.com
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PACIFICON	Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE (Chair)	925-820-5848 (h) myword@sprynet.com

The Mollie Milar WB6WZV Editor

If you read about Dave (The oldest mariner to circumnavigate the globe single handed) and Mickey last month, it may be of interest to know you can keep up with his travelers, and travels at the following Web sites: www.dclark.com/ or www.captainclark.com/

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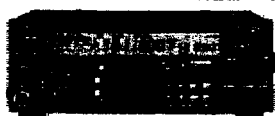
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

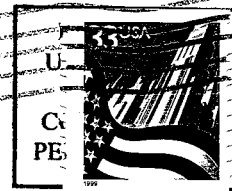
09/04/2000	7:30 PM	MDARC Board meeting	at Emil Villa's in Concord
09/15/2000	7:30 PM	MDARC General meeting	
09/16/2000	8:00 AM	PACIFICON General meeting	at Emil Villa's in Concord
09/29/2000		Carrier deadline	
10/02/2000	7:30 PM	MDARC Board meeting	at Emil Villa's in Concord
10/13/2000	7:30 PM	MDARC General meeting	NOTE this is not the third Friday due to PACIFICON
10/20/2000 _ 10/22/2000		PACIFICON at the Concord Sheraton	

The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 23222

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523



Change in Service Requested

